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WATER SYSTEM UPDATE 10/14/16

Please note that this update and all future updates will contain new information and does not repeat information already provided in previous updates

The Drought Management Crisis Team met on Tuesday, October 11th.

Water Supply

- The Water Department continues to supply the Town's water needs exclusively from the wells.
- The 2½ inches of rainfall on Sunday and Monday edged up the Reservoir level to minus 73.75", which equates to 27% full. The Reservoir is slowly rising, but there is no appreciable change in the projected weather pattern. We must continue our efforts to conserve water use until the Reservoir reaches the water level typical for this time of year. (Last October, the Reservoir was at 62% full.)
- The ground water levels at the wells are dropping. This is concerning. The Water Department continues to carefully monitor well operation, water tank levels, and system pressure to prevent over-pumping the aquifer.
- The Health Department is working on a drought management plan for private well users. (The Department cannot regulate private wells without a Bylaw authorizing it to do so.)

Water Usage

- Daily water consumption is creeping up. Daily water use in the week of October 10th was 1,181,143 gallons per day or 66 gallons per person per day. This is 3.3% higher than the week previous week and a full 11% higher than the last week of September! **Conservation by our residents and businesses remains the single biggest factor that will enable us all to get through this extraordinary period of drought.**
- Helpful water saving tips sent in by fellow residents are posted on the Town's website. Send yours to conservewater@scituatema.gov
- Violations: There were 2 water ban violations this past week on Greenfield Lane and Rebecca Road.
- Remember – municipal water cannot be used to wash down boats.

Future Resiliency

- Expansion of the Reservoir: The Special Town Meeting Warrant contains an Article to fund the Town's \$39,000 portion of a project to continue engineering and permitting work to raise the Reservoir height. This project, when completed, will provide an

additional 28 days supply of water for the Town in future summers. (Special Town Meeting is on Wednesday, October 19th at 7pm in the High School gym.)

- Dolan Well Field: The DPW has contacted the engineering firm AECOM to help the Town conduct testing and obtain permits to develop the Dolan well field.
- Satellite Well: There is an Article at Special Town Meeting to fund construction of a “satellite” well adjacent to Well 22. The addition of a satellite well will increase the well fields capacity from 130 gallons per minute to 330 gpm.

Outreach and Education

- The Transfer Station has rain barrels for sale to residents at cost (\$55). Twenty-three of the first twenty-five have already been purchased, but more will be available at the end of the month. To purchase one, go to the Town website www.scituate.ma.gov, click on the “On-line Services” icon in the box to the left side of the screen, then click on the \$-sign. You will pay for the rain barrel with a credit card, print your receipt and take it to the Transfer station to pick up your rain barrel. (The Transfer Station is open from 8am to 3:30pm Friday through Tuesday, except holidays)
- The Department of Environmental Protection launched a Drought Management Task Force this week. Below is a link to their webpage including information about the drought, water saving ideas, etc.

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/water-res-protection/water-data-tracking/drought-status.html>

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